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PAPER

Delivered in by

Dr. *Alston.* Dr. *Bates.*
Dr. *Hamens* Dr. *Micklethwait.*

ON

Monday the 16. of *October*, 1648:
to the Honorable Committee

FOR

Bathes and Bath-Stoves.

FROM

The Colledge of Physitians in *London.*

TOGETHER,

With an Answer thereunto.

By *Peter Chamberlen:* Dr. in Physick,
and Fell. of the said Colledge.

LONDON, Printed in the yeare 1648.

The Committee being ſet the third time in expectation of what Objections the Colledge would offer againſt the Ordinance for publike artificiall Bathes,& Bath-Stoves, *or whether they would approve of them.*

Dr. Alſton began as followeth, in theſe or the like words and Phraſes.

THe Colledge commanded me to return humble thanks to the HonorableCō-mittee for not giving conſent to the Ordinance of Bathes, without them. (Then he proceeded) Having the fear of God before our eyes, and the good of the Common-wealth, The Colledge do by us return this Anſwer to the Honorable Committee, that they do not think fit the erecting of publike Bathes ſhould be granted to Dr. *Chamberlen*, and they think them hurtfull to the Common-wealth.

And the Colledg desires that this honourable Committee signifie so much unto the honorable Hose.

Then the Committee asked if they had not brought their Answer in writing, whereupon they presented their Paper as followeth:

To the Honourable, the Committee for Bathes.

THe President and Colledge of Physitians return their humble thanks to this Honorable Committee for your favour unto them, and humbly represent that since the Honorable Committee is pleased to resolve not to enjoyn Dr. *Chamberlen* to attend the Colledge concerning his Design of *Bathes*, they can give no satisfactory Answer therein, Onely whereas publike Bathes have been by their abuse, the Causes in the *Greek* and *Roman* States, (where there was greater necessity, and lesse danger of them then in our cold clyme) of so much Physicall prejudice, effeminating bodies, and procuring infirmities, and morall in order touching the manners of the people, that in either of them upon the coming of the Christians into power, they were demolished or converted into other uses; And whereas for private use there are in the houses of divers persons of this Kingdom, Cradles, Tubbs, Boxes, Chayres, Bathes, and Bathe-Stoves, in which by the help of Fumes, Vapors, water, Oyle, &c. according to the prescription of Physitians, sweat may be procured, payne asswaged, and all necessary ends of bathing attained. The President and Colledge are so confident of, and presume so much upon the wisdom and justice of this honourable Committee, & the two Houses of Parliament, that they believe, if that it shall please them to empower the said Dr. *Chamberlen* by any Ordinance for erection

rection of publike Bathes, they will ſo regulate his deſign, make ſuch proviſion, and take ſuch caution from him, that none of the afore-mentioned inconveniences ſhall follow. And that they will neither infringe the juſt liberty of the Subject, nor abridge other Phyſitions in the choyce of their inſtruments, or legall practiſe of any part of their Art.

Fran. Prujean Collegii Medicorum Londinenſium Regiſtarius.

This is a true Copy. *Leo. Copley.*

To the honorable Committe for Bathes, The humble Anſwer of Peter Chamberlen, *Doctor in Phyſick, and Fellow of the Colledge of Phyſitians in* London; *to a Paper delivered to the honorable Committe, by* Dr. Alſton, Dr. Hameus, Doct. Bates, *and* Dr. Micklethwait, *from the Preſident, and others of the ſaid Colledge.*

In humble obedience to Command of this Honourable Committee, & in Anſwer to the Colledg Paper.

IN the firſt place, I ſay, I willingly paſſe by all perſonal aymes, be it in the mention of my not attendance, (which they are cauſe of) or in their grand Caveats enjoyned by them on this honourable Committee, and the two Houſes of Parliament, upon

upon their Wiſdoms and Juſtice, If they ſhall empower mee, &c. or in their many arguments of Abuſe to prevent that IF. And am reſolved (as God ſhall enable me) to ſwallow all private reproach and ſcorn, that runs not too much on the publick ſcore.

Secondly, concerning the Matter it ſelf, I humbly anſwer, that the Colledg have quite miſtaken it; for I preſented only the Uſe of Publick Bathes, and they meddle only with the Abuſe of them. Alas, who knows not, that the Abuſe of wine cauſeth drunkenneſſe; the abuſe of women, whoredome; the abuſe of meats, gluttony; and the abuſe of Phyſick, poyſon?

Thirdly, I fear they have too much forſaken the Authors of our own Faculty, to ſide with Poets and the ſuperſtitious beginnings of Antichriſt, in the aggravations of thoſe Abuſes.

Fourthly, I doubt whether they have not miſtaken the jealous zeal of thoſe Religious Fathers that writ againſt them; for the inſulting Barbariſmes of the *Gothes* and *Vandales*, and other conquering Nations, in demoliſhing thoſe ſtately Buildings. And whether the ſelf-ſame writings may not more, or as fitly be applyed unto the private Houſes, and thoſe Accommodations mentioned in the Paper, Yea, to the Excellent and Famous Bathes of Somerſetſhire.

Fifthly, I perceive they conſulted not well with Travellers, when they affirm them all demoliſhed, or converted to other uſes in the Grecian and Romane Empires. For the truth is, that many of them being demoliſhed, Leſſer Purſes, Power, and Leiſure, have not been able to contend in State with the Treaſure and Soveraignty of the whole world, which thoſe Emperours had that built them.

Sixthly, I doubt whether it be not a fundamental Hereſie in Phyſick, to neceſſitate hot Remedies (as Bathes) for hot Countries, and proclaim them dangerous in cold Clymes, notwithſtanding the daily Experience in Germa-

ny,

ny, Poland, Denmark, & Muſcovia, to the contrary. And the Great Canon of Phyſick, *contraria contrariis curantur*,

Seventhly, I do verily believe, and dare adventure my Life and Eſtate upon it, that I can (by Gods bleſſing) more ſafely, certainly, ſuddenly, and with more Eaſe, cure many (if not all curable) diſeaſes with them, then all our Colledg; yea, then All Phyſitians in the world can do without them. Yea, ſuch diſeaſes as without them are wholly deſperate and deadly.

Eighthly, In Anſwer to ſome tacit Jealouſies, I do not do this purpoſely to diminiſh the Practiſe of Phyſitians, but verily ſuppoſe there may be a way propounded in them, both advantagious to them & the Common-wealth.

Ninthly, I do not endeavour to engroſſe them to my ſelf; but have from the beginning, and do ſtill humbly offer it unto the State, or any whom thay ſhall appoint; wherein (if I do not) I verily believe that Dr. *Grew* will be the beſt able to ſerve them.

Laſtly, I profeſſe before God and men, that I believe the due uſe of them in all convenient places, may ſave above 10000 Lives a year. And that in faithfulneſſe to Almighty God, and my native Country, I have endeavoured this ſervice; from the which, if the honourable Parliament or Committee can diſcharge me before the Great Judg, I ſhall give moſt humble thanks to God and Them, rejoycing to have ſo eſcaped the incenſed Spirits of ſo many learned men, as now oppoſe me.

FINIS.